92-01104/

LANDS AND FORESTS
TECHNICAL NOTE

1990 WHITE-TAILED DEER HARVEST REPORT

Art Patton

The 1990 registered deer kill indicates a continued decline in harvest that began in 1986. The change from report card to mandatory deer registration in 1989 makes it impossible to compare the kill figures of 1989 and 1990 with those of previous years. Even without a statistical basis for comparison, the kill is down considerably.

The registered kill for 1990 was 16,166 deer. An additional 140 deer were reported taken under a conservation agreement with the native people of Nova Scotia, for a total harvest of 16,306 deer. In 1989, 27,228 deer were registered and native hunters reported an additional 179, for a total of 27,407. The 1990 harvest was down by 40.5 per cent, or 11,101 deer, compared with last year.

The decrease in the kill was greater than the decrease in the deer population, for several hunt-related reasons.

1. Fewer summer and fall deer sightings reduced license sales and hunter numbers. Total license sales figures are not available, but a reduction is indicated.
2. Fewer sightings and reduced success result in less serious hunting time afield. The more hunters see deer or some deer sign in their hunting area, the more they return to hunt and better their chances. In 1990 there was little encouragement, less effort, and reduced success.
3. Traditionally hunters are active on the opening weekend and the first week of the season. Kills are normally highest during that period, lessening gradually as the season progresses. In 1989 snow during the last two weeks of the season attracted more hunters than usual, and improved hunter success. This kept the kill level in line with the preceding weeks. In 1990 cold, rainy weather on the opening weekend and during the first week reduced hunter success. The large numbers of hunters managed some kill during the first week, but success rates were not good. Many hunters were discouraged, and put less effort into the remainder of the season. The kill dropped off even further.

Figure 1 shows the per cent of the annual kill taken in each week of the last two years, and compares the 1990 decline to 1989, when the harvest was maintained throughout the season.

The following three tables provide kill data:

1. The registered weekly deer kill by county for 1990.
2. The registered number of deer per week and the per cent of total kill registered per week for 1989 and 1990.
3. The number and sex of registered deer taken in each county in 1989 and 1990.

Art Patton
Manager, Wildlife Resources
(Big Game)

Wildlife Division, 136 Exhibition St.,
Kentville, Nova Scotia
B4N 4E5

Figure 1.
Percent of total kill by week of the season

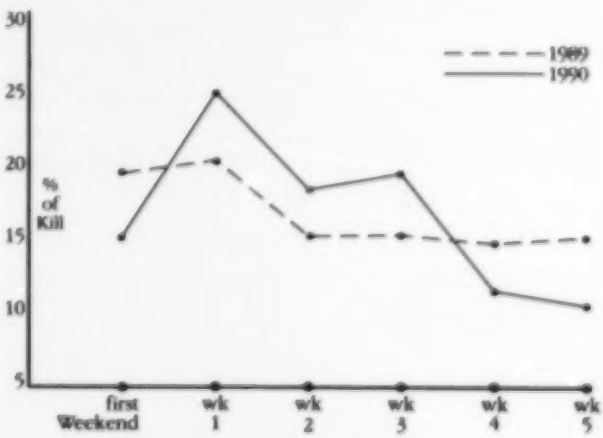

Table 1. *Registered weekly deer kill by county, Nova Scotia, 1990.*

	Oct. 1-15				Oct. 26-27				Oct.29-Nov.3				Nov. 5-10				Nov.12-17				Nov.19-24				Nov.26-Dec.1				Season			
County	Male	Fem.	Unk.	Total	Male	Fem.	Unk.	Total	Male	Fem.	Unk.	Total	Male	Fem.	Unk.	Total	Male	Fem.	Unk.	Total	Male	Fem.	Unk.	Total	Male	Fem.	Unk.	Total	Male	Fem.	Unk.	Total
Lunenburg	5	1	0	6	154	150	0	304	201	188	0	389	136	110	0	246	154	102	0	256	91	69	0	160	106	83	0	189	847	703	0	1550
Queens	4	1	0	5	67	55	0	122	107	86	0	193	93	46	0	139	96	49	0	145	57	34	0	91	41	26	0	67	465	297	0	762
Shelburne	1	0	0	1	62	44	0	106	108	70	0	178	74	35	0	109	78	35	0	113	38	25	0	63	21	17	0	38	382	226	0	608
Yarmouth	3	2	0	5	68	59	0	127	102	91	0	193	67	40	1	108	65	44	0	109	28	23	0	51	29	27	0	56	362	286	1	649
Digby	2	1	0	3	48	19	0	67	61	44	0	105	62	25	0	87	38	14	0	52	27	9	0	36	26	19	0	45	264	131	0	395
Annapolis	2	0	0	2	70	51	0	121	100	90	0	190	111	61	0	172	107	45	0	152	60	39	0	99	52	43	0	95	502	329	0	831
Kings	3	1	0	4	73	56	0	129	138	100	0	238	102	64	0	166	102	59	0	161	61	40	0	101	62	55	0	117	541	375	0	916
West	20	6	0	26	542	434	0	976	817	669	0	1486	645	381	1	1027	640	348	0	988	362	239	0	601	337	270	0	607	3363	2347	1	5711
Halifax	0	4	0	4	92	91	0	183	134	135	1	270	118	70	0	188	139	63	0	202	79	32	1	112	66	42	0	108	628	437	2	1067
Hants	1	7	0	8	124	129	1	254	189	195	0	384	111	90	0	201	151	84	0	235	100	47	0	147	97	71	0	168	773	623	1	1397
Cumberland	2	0	0	2	95	95	0	190	112	127	0	239	121	82	1	204	116	54	0	170	92	47	0	139	85	50	2	137	623	455	3	1081
Colchester	4	2	0	6	100	103	0	203	169	152	0	321	119	93	1	213	137	52	0	189	97	48	0	145	74	54	0	128	700	504	1	1205
Pictou	2	3	0	5	84	81	0	165	144	113	0	257	102	72	0	174	125	59	0	184	92	46	0	138	70	55	1	126	619	429	1	1049
Antigonish	0	1	0	1	44	33	0	77	60	57	0	117	50	26	0	76	59	39	0	98	44	29	0	73	35	24	1	60	292	209	1	502
Guysborough	0	0	0	0	48	42	0	90	99	79	0	178	81	49	0	130	89	45	0	134	65	26	0	91	39	29	0	68	421	270	0	691
East	9	17	0	26	587	574	1	1162	907	858	1	1766	702	482	2	1186	816	396	0	1212	569	275	1	845	466	325	4	795	4056	2927	9	6992
Inverness	2	3	0	5	78	86	0	164	130	129	0	259	157	108	0	265	163	99	0	262	74	49	0	123	105	80	0	185	709	554	0	1263
Victoria	0	0	0	0	15	8	0	23	27	36	0	63	39	28	0	67	62	43	0	105	29	17	0	46	23	17	0	40	195	149	0	344
Cape Breton	0	2	0	2	51	57	0	108	124	85	0	209	94	56	0	150	153	47	0	200	69	26	0	95	2	1	0	3	493	274	0	767
Richmond	1	4	0	5	113	122	3	238	122	146	0	268	99	93	1	193	137	60	1	198	60	34	0	94	41	41	0	82	573	500	5	1078
C.B. Island	3	9	0	12	257	273	3	533	403	396	0	799	389	285	1	675	515	249	1	765	232	126	0	358	171	139	0	310	1970	1477	5	3452
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	1	0	3	3	1	0	4	1	1	0	2	0	1	0	1	7	4	0	11
Province	32	32	0	64	1386	1281	4	2671	2128	1923	1	4052	1738	1149	4	2891	1374	994	1	2969	1164	641	1	1806	974	735	4	1713	9396	6755	15	16166

Unk. – Unknown

Table 2. *Registered weekly deer harvest, showing % of total harvest in Nova Scotia, 1989 & 1990*

Week	1989 Kill	1989 Percent of total	1990 Kill	1990 Percent of total
Bow Season	140	0.5	64	0.4
Opening Fri. & Sat.	5268	19.3	2671	16.5
Week 1	5498	20.2	4052	25.1
Week 2	4091	15.0	2891	17.9
Week 3	4231	15.5	2969	18.4
Week 4	3927	14.4	1806	11.2
Week 5	4073	15.0	1711	10.6

Table 3. *Comparison of Registered Deer Harvest By County, Nova Scotia, 1989 & 1990*

County	1989 Male	1989 Female	1989 Total	1990 Male	1990 Female	1990 Unk.	1990 Total
Lunenburg	1 328	1 214	2 542	847	703	0	1 550
Queens	724	673	1 397	465	297	0	762
Shelburne	672	593	1 265	382	226	0	608
Yarmouth	659	727	1 386	362	286	1	649
Digby	470	382	852	264	131	0	395
Annapolis	846	780	1 626	502	329	0	831
Kings	803	673	1 476	541	375	0	916
West	5 502	5 042	10 544	3 363	2 347	1	5 711
Halifax	807	710	1 517	628	437	2	1 067
Hants	1 123	1 068	2 191	773	623	1	1 397
Cumberland	1 008	981	1 989	623	455	3	1 081
Colchester	1 036	1 019	2 955	700	504	1	1 205
Pictou	864	815	1 679	619	429	1	1 049
Antigonish	350	304	654	292	209	1	502
Guysborough	601	495	1 096	421	270	0	691
East	5 789	5 392	11 181	4 056	2 927	9	6 992
Inverness	1 082	865	1 947	709	554	0	1 263
Victoria	412	353	765	195	149	0	344
Cape Breton	776	560	1 336	493	274	0	767
Richmond	806	649	1 455	573	500	5	1 078
C. B. Island	3 076	2 427	5 503	1 970	1 477	5	3 452
Unknown	7	4	0	11			
Province	14 367	12 861	27 228	9 396	6 755	15	16 166